

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 1/29/98

KENNETH H. BACON, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, 1400 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C., telephone number [REDACTED], voluntarily appeared at the Office of the General Counsel, Pentagon, for the purpose of being interviewed by Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) representatives, Special Agents (SAs) ERIC L. KARANDY and COURTNEY WEST. Also present was Attorney WILLIAM J. MURPHY, Murphy & Shaffer, Ninth Floor, 100 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, telephone number [REDACTED] and Attorney BRADFORD WEIGMAN of the Pentagon Counsel's Office.

BACON advised that the position for his secretary, also referred to as confidential assistant, became available when GENE WHETZEL announced her intentions to resign. Her decision to transfer over to the National Security Council was based partially on a job which required less travel and irregular and long hours. WHETZEL is approximately [REDACTED] and a Schedule C employee.

A "two track" approach was taken to fill the vacated position, according to BACON. This entailed notifying the personnel apparatus within the Department of Defense (DOD), as well as the White House Liaison Office in the DOD, headed by CHARLIE DUNCAN. Based on the job description approximately three to four individuals were identified within DOD and only one, MONICA LEWINSKY, from the White House Liaison Office.

BACON advised that based on GENE WHETZEL'S recommendations that her replacement possess the requisite computer skills (familiarity with Internet) and have a high energy level, he selected MONICA LEWINSKY. The selection process also included a review of her resume, a one-half hour initial interview and a request to observe her typing skills. He stated that he was never contacted by anyone at the White House regarding his selection of Lewinsky and never had discussions with VERNON JORDAN.

BACON was never informed, nor did he ever discuss, LEWINSKY'S security clearance in regard to her employment. He assumed this would have been pre-screened as part of the job description. He would usually relegate one of his deputies,

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